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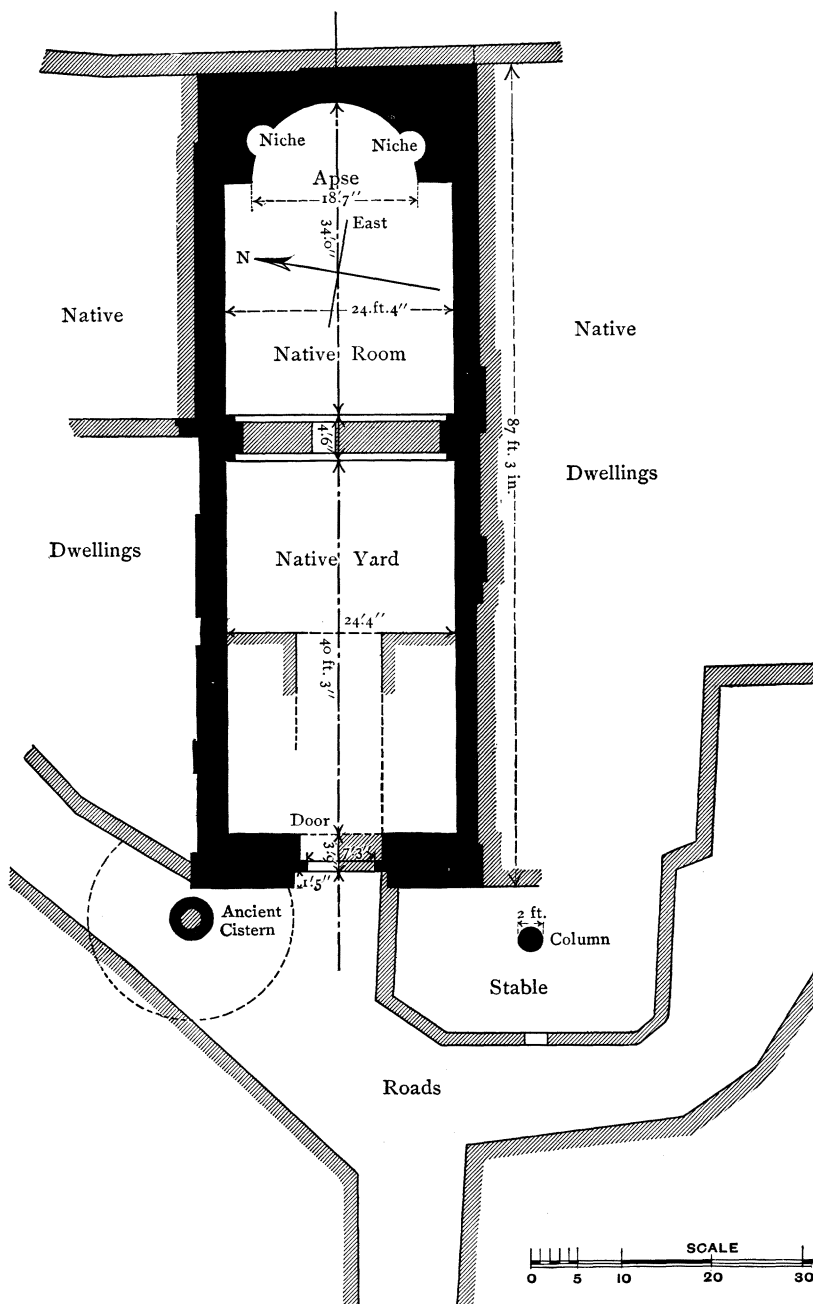
REMAINS OF A MEDIAEVAL CHRISTIAN CHURCH
AT ZER'IN

[PLATE XIII]

THE village of Zer'in stands upon the site of the ancient city of Jezreel, a favorite residence of the Israelite kings of the dynasty of Omri. In the fourth century of our era it was "a fine village." It is mentioned more than once by the crusading historians under the name "parvum Gerinum," but hitherto no Christian remains have been observed there. Recently, however, the ruins of a church were discovered among the hovels of the village by Dr. G. Schumacher, who examined them at the instance of the Director of the School in Jerusalem, and made the following report with the accompanying plan (PLATE XIII):¹

"In March, 1902, I was informed by a native of Jenin that the villagers had been digging in Zer'in, and had discovered ancient remains in a hut on the northwest of the village not very far from the water cistern. On the 26th of April I proceeded to the spot, and found the remains to be those of a large Christian church. A native hut is built into the apse and the adjoining nave; the yard occupies the western half of the nave, and is closed by a door built into the old portal facing west. The apse of the church has not been much injured; it has a width of about 18 ft. 7 in., with two niches in the vault, each measuring 3 ft. 2 in. in width and about 6 ft. in height. Both niches have been filled with native mud masonry. The

¹ In PLATE XIII the foundation lines of the church are in black; additions of later date are indicated by the lighter shading.



A MEDIAEVAL CHURCH AT ZER'IN (JEZREEL)

main axis of the church runs nearly due east. The width of the nave is 24 ft. 4 in. ; the length of the whole building, from the exterior wall of the apse to the western face wall of the portal, is 87 ft. 3 in. This length has apparently at one time been divided into two parts by a transverse wall, traces of which and of pillars are still visible. The present hut extends to this division. The area outside (west) of this division wall is 40 ft. 3 in. long, and halfway to the gate there are traces of masonry by which the width of 24 ft. 4 in. was divided into three compartments. The ancient portal has a width of 7 ft. 3 in. between the jamb stones ; a bay 3 ft. 9 in. deep and about 9 ft. 6 in. wide, with signs of an arch, leads from the portal into the church. The face of the entrance, the ancient *porticus*, was also arched, and projects 1 ft. 5 in. beyond the actual face of the portal.

“On the outside of the church is found on the north of the portal an ancient cistern, and on the south, in the stable of a villager, the stump of a column 2 ft. in diameter. Other prostrate shafts are found in the same neighborhood, covered by straw and *débris*.

“The walls of the church are still standing, to the height of 8 or 10 ft. The courses of masonry are 2 ft. to 2 ft. 2 in. in height ; some of the stones near the portal are 3 ft. to 3 ft. 10 in. long. The stones are carefully dressed, without bosses, and, to judge from the chisel marks, of crusading origin ; the foundations of the apse may be early Christian. The material is the local hard limestone of Jebel Fuḳū'a.

G. SCHUMACHER.”